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ing for the original text. The "prefaces" cannot, in accordance with the plans of the editors to make them mere abstracts, be other than colorless; one finds them superfluous, since they do not contribute anything to the documents themselves. After all, these criticisms are rather ungracious, in view of the improvement that has been made and is being made as the work advances and the editors gain a wider grasp of their material.

JAMES A. LE ROY.

*Ledger and Sword; or, the Honourable Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies (1599-1874).* By BECKLES WILLSON. (London, New York, and Bombay: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1903. Two vols., pp. xii, 452; iv, 438.)

THE preliminary work on the history of the East India Company has been done. The necessary materials—the court books, factory diaries, consultations, and correspondence—were all preserved with conscientious care by the company. In recent years nearly all of this material, along with much from state papers and other sources, has been made accessible to historical students by the excellent work of Henry Stevens, Birdwood, Sainsbury, and others. The stones have been quarried, but they still await the master builder to construct the edifice worthy of such material. Sir William Wilson Hunter's *History of British India* is a worthy attempt, but, in addition to the fact that it is incomplete, it is not essentially a history of the company, while the works of Gleig, of Mill, and of Thornton are not modern.

In the present work Mr. Willson does not aspire to become the great historian of the company. He sets himself the task of telling "the full story, from birth to burial, . . . in a popular form", and this he accomplishes with much skill. It would be unfair, however, to dwell too much on the popular character of the volumes. Mr. Willson's work shows much study and intimate knowledge of the sources. It has besides the decided merit of adhering consistently to the story of the company, instead of wandering off into the alluring byways of the history of India. Nor is the history of the company subordinated to that of its servants, as is so generally the case. The life and policy of the company's home office in Leadenhall Street as contrasted with the empire-building in India, the *Ledger* as contrasted with the *Sword*, are the phases emphasized.

The history of the East India Company covers the period from 1599 to 1874. In taking the earlier date, 1599, rather than the commonly accepted date, 1600, Mr. Willson lays stress upon the genesis of the society before the formal merging of the Association of London Merchants into a chartered company known as the "Governor and Merchants trading to the East Indies", but as the charter was not granted till December 31, 1600, and the first voyage set out in that year, it is altogether probable that the date 1600, so long associated with the company's

origin, will stand. In his main divisions of the company's history the author follows the usual lines, although the different periods are not so strongly emphasized as one might wish. The great change in the character of the company's activities after Clive's victories, says Mr. Willson, quoting from Wheeler's *Early Records*, "marked the close of the mercantile period, when the English in Bengal were traders and nothing but traders" (I. 138); a statement which requires modification to bring it into harmony with his protest against the view of many historians who attribute to the early period a commercial activity only. For, he says, citing Macaulay, "commerce was its object; but in order to enable it to pursue that object, it had been, like the other Indian companies which were its rivals, . . . invested from a very early period with political functions" (II. 411). Nevertheless from the middle of the eighteenth century onward the political activities of the company, its exercise of territorial sovereignty, making of treaties, coining of money, etc. (II. 126 ff.) rapidly overshadowed its commercial activities. How clearly this was foreseen by Clive the author shows by citations from an interesting letter to Pitt in January, 1759, in which it is suggested that the exercise of "so large a sovereignty may possibly be an object too extensive for a mercantile company"; and that the great design would be well "worthy of the government's taking into hand". As is well known, the government did not take the matter in hand, and the company remained as sovereign in India till the India Act of 1858. Sixteen years later, in 1874, the East India Company was dissolved.

Mr. Willson has a keen sense for the life and thought of England underlying the development of the company. The vigorous activity of the age of Elizabeth is conspicuously present in the early pages. The frequent citations from contemporary literature are often very apt and illuminating. On the other hand, there is a woeful lack of historic setting from the standpoint of general European conditions. There is no adequate explanation for the beginning of the Dutch and English ventures in "the long acknowledged hunting grounds of the Portuguese" (I. 39); no mention of the Spanish control in Portugal beginning in 1580 and lasting till 1640; no hint that as a consequence of this control of Portugal the trade between Lisbon and the north of Europe had come to a sudden stop — the English and particularly the Dutch were forced to follow trade to its source; nor does Mr. Willson rise to his occasion when he treats of the place of the company in the development of English history. Its long life and consistent policy stand in strong contrast to the kaleidoscopic changes in the political history of England. Parliaments and monarchs passed away, but the company remained. Among its servants more than on a throne are to be found the typical Englishmen. In the light of this remarkable independence of the company and the contrast in this respect with the position of the Dutch East India Company, one is rather disappointed not to find some comparative statement of the points of difference in the internal organization of these two great rivals, and of their respective relations to their governments.

There is an occasional lapse of dignity in the style and presentation, as, for example, in the choice of chapter-titles. Even in a popular work such headings as "The Portuguese Laughed Too Soon", "Sir Josiah Overrides Tribulation", must appear somewhat striking. Others again, as for example, "The Governor-General Fights, the Company Pays", "The Doom of the Ledger", are very suggestive. The chapter on the "Muse in Leadenhall Street" has a peculiar charm. It affords us a new point of view of the familiar figures of Lamb, Sir Josiah Child, and John Stuart Mill, in the large rooms and atmosphere of the India House. The portraits and illustrations are well chosen, though in a number of cases no clue is given as to the source from which they are drawn. There is no index.

W. E. LINGELBACH.

*The English Church from the Accession of Charles I. to the Death of Anne (1625-1714).* By the REV. WILLIAM HOLDEN HUTTON, B.D. [A History of the English Church, edited by the late Very Rev. W. R. W. Stephens, D.D., and the Rev. William Hunt, M.A. In 8 vols., Volume VI.] (London: Macmillan and Company, Limited; New York: The Macmillan Company. 1903. Pp. ix, 368.)

HAVING given this book a careful reading, it seems to me that Mr. Hutton has not done himself justice, and that the book is less helpful and interesting than he might have made it, if he had not been hampered by the necessity of writing according to the plan made for him by the editors of the series in which it appears. Take the matter of references. The general reader considers them as only disfigurements of the page, while they are very dear to the scholarly reader and essential to the student. The plan adopted by the editors is to give no foot-notes, and to put no numbers or other signs in the text referring to references or notes at the end of chapters or of the book, but to append to each chapter a paragraph headed "authorities" in which mention is made of the sources used in its preparation. It is presumably somewhere in the mentioned "authorities" that the quotations made in the chapter occur. But as it manifestly would require an acquaintance with the authorities equal to the author's to enable one to locate these quotations, the editors' plan seems to me poor. It would have been better to give at the beginning of the book an annotated list of books and other sources used.

The limited space at Mr. Hutton's disposal has also, apparently, hampered him. He has met the demand for conciseness by limiting himself rigidly to the direct concerns of the Church of England during the period. But thereby he has decreased interest in his narrative very much and also rendered it unintelligible to those readers whose only knowledge of the period is derived from this book. Again, the editors insisted on objectivity. They bore in mind that the period assigned to Mr. Hutton was the seed-time and harvest of Nonconformity, still, alas,